

NINTH REGIMENT.

(FIRST CAVALRY).

BY BRIGADIER-GENERAL, RUFUS BARRINGER.

The formation of the ten regiments of State Troops was a wise step in the organization of the North Carolina forces. These ten thousand men were made up of the very pick and flower of the State—all enlisted for the war, and so forming a model for others.

No one of these ten regiments attracted so much attention as the Ninth, afterwards known as the First Cavalry. In the selection of company officers and the field and staff, Governor Ellis took special interest. The colonel and lieutenant-colonel, Robert Ransom and Lawrence S. Baker, were fresh from the cavalry of the United States Army, while the two majors, James B. Gordon and Victor C. Barringer, represented the best capacity and courage of civil life. The companies were selected with great care, from numerous tenders, all over the State. The enlistments were nearly all in May and June, 1861, and the first rendezvous was early in July at Asheville; but about August 1st the companies at Asheville were removed to Camp Beauregard, at Ridgeway, Warren county, which was made a regular school of drill, discipline and cavalry exercise and life. No troops ever went through a severer ordeal. At times and on occasions there were loud complaints against Colonel Ransom for the rigid rules and harsh measures adopted. Exception was specially taken to the line of promotion as used in the United States Army, instead of the volunteer system; but the great majority of both men and officers bore the severity of the service with patriotic fortitude, and enjoyed the ups and downs of the drill and the jests and jeers of camp-life with infinite humor. So, by the middle